

MASKELL HERO AT HENDON

By "CHILTERN"

Hendon 0, Wycombe Wanderers 0.

AFTER Wycombe Wanderers had fought like tigers to win an unexpected point at Hendon on Saturday, team manager Barry Darvill said: "If there's a better amateur goalkeeper in England than John Maskell, then I'd like to see him."

So would I. Maskell played the game of his life, jumping, diving, clutching and punching his way into even the hearts of the Hendon fans who cheered him off the field.

For one of their toughest fixtures of the season Wycombe started off at a disadvantage when inside-forwards Horseman and Samuels cried off.

Horseman chipped a bone in his hand in the Oxford City match last week, and Samuels had to go to a wedding.

New signing, 20-years-old Barry Hunt, was given his chance at inside-left without ever having played for the reserves.

He justified his choice by playing some intelligent football before tiring with the greater pace of the second spell. But Hunt looks extremely promising.

FIRST OUTING

Stuart Thompson went in at number eight for his first senior outing of the season, and put in a great amount of work and some clever touches.

But had the forwards been a patch on the defence, Wycombe could well have won this game. To my mind the whole back six were outstanding.

Bates was always ready to shoot, but received little service from wingers Merrick and Worley. And Hunt would have looked a lot better had Merrick stayed with him and helped him out instead of wandering out of position.

To be fair to Merrick, at least he was always ready to have a go. He headed against the bar just before half-time and again went close in the second-half.

Worley had a terrible afternoon. He rarely beat a defender, hung onto the ball too long, and invariably passed to a green shirted Hendon player.

The game almost erupted in the 65th minute when Hendon

were awarded the most unlikely penalty I have ever seen.

Referee Coghlan blew up for a foul by Roystone on Swain after having his attention drawn to Roystone's clumsy tackle — and that's all it was — by the linesman.

He awarded a free kick well outside the area and then — again on the flagman's recommendation — changed his mind and made it a penalty.

As the Wycombe players protested violently linesman Walker ran across the field to speak to the referee again — apparently to tell him that the Wycombe players were still disagreeing with his decision. How right they were.

But justice was done when Tony Harding chipped the spot-kick wide, to the howls of anguish from the Hendon fans — and hoots of joy from the Wycombe players.

The Hendon front line always looked dangerous. They hunted in packs and they hunted quickly.

Up against the dangerous Swain, Ian Rundle regained his lost composure of recent weeks, and throughout dominated the air over the Wycombe penalty area.

Baker too had an outstanding match along with Gale, Beck and Roystone.

Hendon were always ready to shoot, and time after time Maskell pulled off wonder saves. But England goalkeeper Swannell was not so happy at the other end.

On one occasion Bates shot hard at him. The ball struck his chest and the crossbar before going for a corner.

Several other times he looked rather unsure when dealing with centres or back passes.

Wycombe—J. Maskell; J. Beck; P. Roystone; B. Baker, I. Rundle, C. Gale; L. Worley, S. Thompson, P. Bates, B. Hunt, L. Merrick; Sub.—V. Sherbourn.

Hendon—J. Swannell; D. Hogwood, M. Cooper; D. Shacklock, J. Ashworth, R. Sleaf; J. Evans, A. Craddock, D. Swain, T. Harding, D. Lakey; Sub.—J. Quail.